



DEFENDER-Europe 20

Fact Sheet

Over the last several years, the U.S. military has concentrated on - and made great strides toward - building the tactical readiness of service members and units. Now it is time to focus on operational and strategic readiness. Strategic readiness includes the ability of the U.S. military to dynamically project force and set the theater by mobilizing and deploying forces, sustaining them in a crisis and redeploying them when their mission is complete.

Funded by the European Deterrence Initiative, Atlantic Resolve demonstrates the U.S. military's ability to rotate brigade-sized units and equipment overseas. The lessons learned through these rotations will be applied on a much larger scale with exercise DEFENDER-Europe 20, the largest deployment of U.S.-based forces to Europe for an exercise in the last 25 years.

In the future, the U.S. military must be ready to deploy, fight and win decisively against any near-peer adversary in a joint, multi-domain, high-intensity conflict. DEFENDER-Europe 20 will build strategic readiness and operationalize the National Defense Strategy and NATO deterrence objectives by demonstrating the U.S. military's ability to rapidly deploy a large combat-credible force and, alongside its allies and partners, quickly respond to crisis.

Exercise DEFENDER-Europe 20 is the deployment of a division-size combat-credible force from the United States to Europe, the drawing of equipment and the movement of personnel and equipment across the theater to various training areas. U.S.-based equipment will leave from ports in four states and arrive in six European countries. This will require the support of tens of thousands of service members and civilians in multiple nations.

U.S. service members will then spread out across the region to establish intermediate staging bases with multinational forces and participate in various annual exercises. These U.S. and European exercises are regularly conducted and not part of DEFENDER-Europe 20, but rather "linked" through a shared exercise scenario, coordinated mission command, mutual sustainment and common communication environment.

These events include:

- Linked airborne operations - U.S. Army Europe's exercise Swift Response 20 which involves the Immediate Response Force, multinational airborne activities and the integration of Special Operations Command.
- Linked command post exercise - the Joint Modernization Command will conduct a computer based command post exercise based on a post-Article V decision scenario set in the year 2028. U.S. Army Europe will exercise its role as a Joint Force Land Component Command headquarters with NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and Multi-National Corps Northeast as subordinate headquarters. During this time, the Department of Defense's Joint Warfighting Assessment 20 will be conducted, as well as U.S. Army Europe exercises Saber Strike 20 and Dynamic Front 20. DEFENDER-Europe 20 will also utilize the Mission Partner Environment, a secure communications network that allows for multinational information sharing and cross-NATO command and control. The MPE will ensure all our NATO allies and partners are integrated on a single platform and can communicate securely.



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- Linked live exercises – integrates U.S. Army Europe's Allied Spirit XI and parts of Saber Strike 20; U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Astral Knight; and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe's Trojan Footprint. Main activities will include a forward passage of lines, a maritime pre-positioned offload and a river crossing. Key units participating will include the Atlantic Resolve rotational units, U.S. Marines and the German-led Enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup. In addition, new technologies such as Trophy, which is an active protection system for the M1 Tank, will be tested.

DEFENDER-Europe 20 will conclude with the redeployment of U.S.-based forces and equipment. U.S. Service members will clear the training areas, return prepositioned stocks, move to ports and return to home stations – fulfilling the U.S. military's commitment to the NATO agreements. Exercises like DEFENDER-Europe 20 show that NATO allies and partners stand stronger together, the U.S. commitment to NATO is iron clad and is a prime example of our collective capabilities.

Quick Facts:

- 20,000 U.S. service members from the continental U.S. deploying to Europe
- 13,000 pieces of equipment drawn from the Army Prepositioned Stock
- 9,000 U.S. service members based in Europe participating from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines
- 7,000 Army National Guard Soldiers from 12 states participating:
 - Arizona
 - Connecticut
 - Idaho
 - Kentucky
 - Maryland
 - Michigan
 - Mississippi
 - New York
 - Pennsylvania
 - South Carolina
 - Tennessee
 - Virginia
- 4,000 km traveled across 12 convoy routes
- 750 U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers participating
- 7 linked U.S. exercises:
 - Astral Knight
 - Allied Spirit XI
 - Dynamic Front
 - Joint Warfighting Assessment
 - Saber Strike
 - Swift Response
 - Trojan Footprint
- 4 Army Preposition Stock draw sites in Belgium, Germany and Netherlands